GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1411
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2004
UPGRADATION OF INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES AT AIRPORTS
Singh Shri Kirti Vardhan;Vijay Krishna Shri

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the foreign airlines have started tweking the schedules of their flights to Delhi in a bid to avoid any delays and cancellations due to dense fog over Delhi during peak winters;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps to upgrade the airport infrastructure in order to meet the heavy rush of flights;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE(INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a) and (b) Few Airlines viz. Air India, British Airways, China Airlines, Cathay Pacific Airways, Emirates, Kuwait Airways, Malaysian Airlines, Austrian Airlines, Asiana Airlines, Royal Jordanian, Singapore Airlines, Aeroflot, Saudi Arabian Airlines, Myanmar Airways, Thai Airways and Turkish Airlines have rescheduled their flights to avoid any delays and cancellations due to likelihood of dense fog over Delhi during peak winters.

(c) and (d) Cat-IIIA Instrument Landing System (ILS) is already operational at Delhi International Airport to facilitate arrival and departure of flights in a visibility range of not less than 200 metres. The Government is in the process of installing category IIIB ILS so as to enable aircraft to land and take off even when visibility is less than 200 meters. Indian Airlines and Air India have trained 49 and 55 pilots in Cat-IIIA, 20 and 11 pilots trained in IIIB and 171 and 142 pilots trained for Cat-II operations respectively. Fog Preparedness for the ensuring winter has been reviewed with the representatives of all concerned agencies. A Coordination Committee shall monitor the start up clearances to manage and prioritize the movement of flights during fog. Meteorological Department shall be providing timely trends and forecast of fog and also make it available on the internet site. Indian Airlines have set up a Coordination Cell to monitor fog situation on all India basis and a system of Flight Information Dissemination through the Call Centres. SMS service broadcast through TV / FM channels are being introduced on all India basis for giving information regarding delays, rescheduling, cancellation to air passengers. Air India has prepared a Contingency Plan for ensuring timely movement of flights during Winter Season. Private Airlines are also taking measures to manage operations during fog to mitigate any inconvenience to passengers.

(e) Does not arise.